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Amendment After Final
Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-5605-US05

Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A stent having a plurality of segments and comprising:

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, each annular element formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, ~~each peak portion being connected to one valley portion by a straight strut and connected to another valley portion by another straight strut, each valley portion being connected to one peak portion by a straight strut and connected to another peak portion by another straight strut, all of the straight struts in an annular element being of the same length, the peak portions being of the same length as the valley portions;~~

at least one a plurality of connecting members connecting adjacent annular elements to form a plurality of cells[[,]] each cell having an area, which are bounded at a first end by a portion of one annular element, at a second end by a portion of another annular element and two connecting members which extend between the one annular element and the other annular element, the first end offset in a circumferential direction from the second end,

the stent having a first segment and a second segment, with the a first segment of the stent having less compression resistance than a second segment of the stent a plurality of combined adjacent cells that impart greater flexibility to the first segment than the second segment, wherein the first segment is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 9, wherein ~~each annular element comprises a plurality of alternating struts and apices connected to each other to form a substantially annular configuration, and wherein the connecting members are connected to the apices~~ peak portions and valley portions of the adjacent annular members.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the longitudinal flexibilities in the first and second segments.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the radial flexibilities in the first and second segments.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the first and second segments

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are spaced apart longitudinally along the stent.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of Nitinol.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of a shape memory alloy.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A stent having a plurality of segments and comprising:
a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, each annular element formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern having a plurality of peaks and troughs, and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, each peak portion being connected to one valley portion by a straight strut and connected to another valley portion by another straight strut, each valley portion being connected to one peak portion by a straight strut and connected to another peak portion by another straight strut, all of the straight struts in an annular element being of the same length, the peak portions being of the same length as the valley portions;

at least one a plurality of connecting members connecting adjacent annular elements from peak to trough to form a plurality of cells, each cell having an area; each connecting member having a first end and a second end, the second end offset in a circumferential direction from the first end.

the stent further having a first segment and a second segment, with the a first segment of the stent having less compression resistance than a second segment of the stent a plurality of combined adjacent cells that impart greater flexibility to the first segment than the second segment; wherein the first segment is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 17. (New) A stent comprising a plurality of serpentine bands and connectors, adjacent serpentine bands connected by connecting members, the stent having a plurality of cells, each cell defined by two connectors and portions of two different serpentine bands, one of the portions being proximal to the other portion, the peaks of the proximal portion being offset in a circumferential directions from the troughs of the distal portion.

Claim 18. (New) The stent of claim 17 made from Nitinol.

Claim 19. (New) The stent of claim 17 made of a self-expandable material.

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Claim 20. (New) The stent of claim 17 wherein the serpentine bands include bands of a shorter length and bands of a longer length, the longer length bands located at first and second ends of the stent.